

Nevertheless, it would be a serious mistake to conclude from this that what one country conceives to be its national interest will necessarily hold for another country. And, even in cases where full agreement can be reached between countries on where their interests lie, there may still be differences as to the best ways of pursuing them.

I agree with the wise and penetrating observations on the distinctive Canadian approach to foreign policy made recently by an outstanding former Canadian diplomat, Mr. John Holmes:

"Obviously, our policies are going to be determined not only by our stature but our geography, our historic associations, and by our own national interests. Like all countries, we are unique, and we are more likely to be zealous and effective in our foreign relations if we have a national style. Into our approach to world problems should go our own experience -- our English and French cultural heritages and our broad ethnic background, our own experience in the path to self-government, our continental resources, our Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic exposures".

In many fields of human activity, Canadians and Americans have become accustomed to ignoring the border which divides our two countries. On the whole, our lives have been greatly enriched by the ease with which we have been able to co-operate and share experiences. But the task of maintaining close and friendly relations between our two countries will not be furthered by glossing over the fact that Canada and the United States are independent national entities, each with its own distinctive ways of translating national interests into policy.

Respect and understanding for the other's point of view is the only basis for a continuation of the harmonious relations our countries have evolved over the years, and which we can rightly be proud to hold up as an example to the world.

Among the factors which shape our foreign policies, three areas of contrast between the United States and Canada can be distinguished:

- (1) The super-power status of the United States, which arises from great wealth and large population, as opposed to the smaller size and more limited power of Canada;
- (2) the bilingual and multicultural nature of Canada, as opposed to the more homogeneous make-up of the United States;
- (3) the revolutionary origins of the United States, as opposed to the evolutionary development of Canada.

There is abundant evidence of the influence which these factors have on the formation of foreign policy in our respective countries. This will be seen in the various international issues I will be speaking of this evening.